

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Proposal to Issue NPDES Storm Water Permits – Northern Idaho

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

March 2008

Public Comments are Invited on Municipal Storm Water Discharge Permits

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites public comment on its proposal to issue five new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the **City of Coeur d'Alene, City of Post Falls, Lakes Highway District, Post Falls Highway District, and Idaho Transportation Department, District 1**. The permits will authorize the discharge of storm water to Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Spokane River from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) outfalls owned and operated by each of these entities.

EPA's Clean Water Act regulations require that operators of certain MS4s within urbanized areas develop and implement a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program to control polluted discharges from publicly owned ditches, pipes, and other conveyances.

The draft permits are based on permit applications submitted by each entity and require actions that must be accomplished over a five-year period, designed to control pollutants in urban storm water discharges as much as possible.

Come to a Public Meeting and Hearing

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Lake City Senior Center
1916 North Lakewood Drive
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Comments on each of the five draft permits will be accepted through April 29, 2008.

Send written comments to:

Manager, NPDES Permits Unit, EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OWW-130
Seattle, WA 98101-1128
E-mail: vakoc.misha@epa.gov

Important: All written comments must include the commenter's name, address, phone number; the relevant NPDES permit number, and a concise statement of the relevant facts upon which the comment is based. You may also make an oral comment for the record at the public hearing.

After the public comment period ends and EPA has considered all comments, the EPA Director of the Office of Water and Watersheds will make the final decision about permit issuance. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality will also consider certifying each of the permits in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-3142

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

*NPDES Municipal Storm Water Permits
Northern Idaho
March 2008*

Documents Available For Review

Each of the proposed permits and fact sheets explaining the basis of the permit conditions are available for public review and comment through **April 29, 2008**.

The documents can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/region10/stormwater.htm> and at the following locations:

EPA Idaho Operations Office
1450 North Orchard Street
Boise, ID 83706

EPA Coeur d'Alene Field Office
1910 Northwest Blvd., Ste. 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Lewiston, ID 83814

For more information, contact:
Misha Vakoc, Storm Water Permit Coordinator,
800-424-4372, x6650
vakoc.misha@epa.gov

*If you need materials in an alternative format, please call **Audrey Washington** at 800-424-4372, x0523*

TTY users please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

Please provide one week advance notice for other special requests.

Background

Storm water is the surface runoff from rain and snow melt. Urban development alters the land's natural infiltration, and human activities generate a host of pollutants that can accumulate on paved surfaces. Polluted storm water runoff is carried through municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment.

These discharge permits are required under the federal Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The permit requirements apply to public entities that own or operate a municipal storm sewer system within U.S. Census Bureau-defined Urbanized Areas. Operators of regulated MS4s must develop a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program, and obtain a permit for storm water discharges from the NPDES permitting authority in their state.